

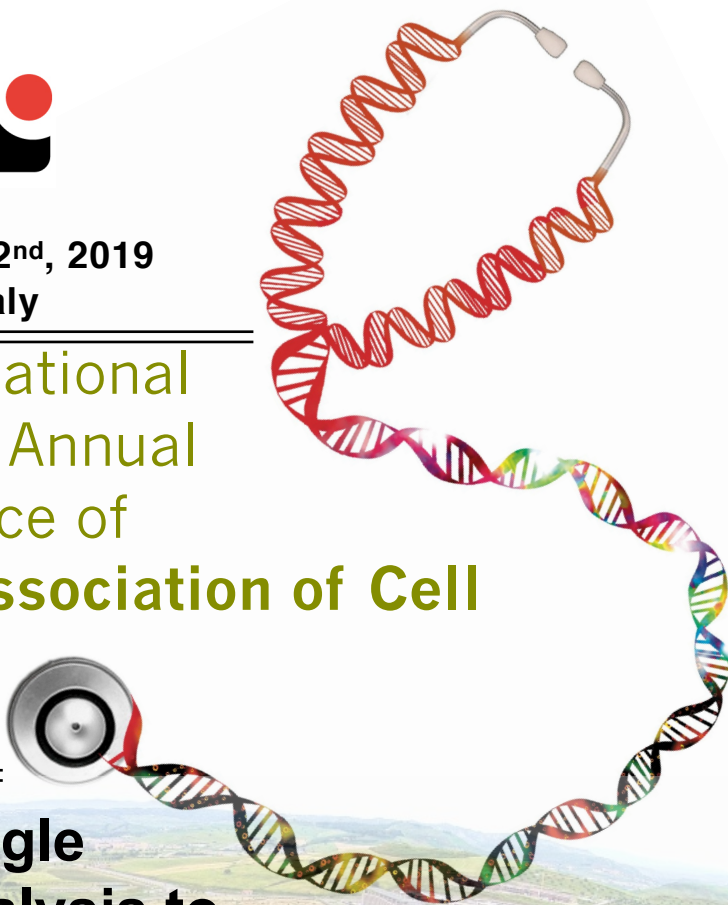


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(AICC)

**From Single
Gene Analysis to
Single Cell Profiling:
A New Era for Genomic Medicine**

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PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACT BOOK



1st 32nd
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P23. Oxidative stress induces *Wnt* canonical/non-canonical pathways modulation in colon cancer cell models

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Background-aim. Increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels play critical roles in chronic inflammation, and predispose to colon carcinogenesis. *Wnt* signaling is essential for gut morphogenesis, tissue homeostasis and self-renewal, but its aberrant activation may drive the colorectal cancer (CRC). The ROS production seems to induce the *Wnt*/ β -Catenin pathways, but the molecular mechanisms involved in CRC progression are still undefined. To evaluate the molecular relationship among oxidative stress and canonical/non-canonical *Wnt* pathways, we analyzed the response to ROS exposure in CRC cell lines with different *Wnt* signaling behaviour.

Methods. HCT116 (MSI) and SW480 (MSS) cells were treated with H₂O₂ [2 mM and 10 mM] for 15' and 30'. We assayed cell viability by MTS and cell cycle by FACS. Gene expression was evaluated by SYBR Green qRT-PCR, and protein expression was analyzed by IHC. Statistical analysis was performed by T-test (p value < 0.05).

Results. MTS revealed different inhibition rates of cell growth at H₂O₂ concentrations. Acute stress induced by H₂O₂ [2mM] up-regulated gene expression of canonical LRP6 and LEF1, and non canonical ROR2 and JUN/AP1 molecules in SW480, while reduced ROR2 and LRP6 expression in HCT116. Both pathways showed a dose dependent increase in SW480, at H₂O₂ [10mM]. In HCT116 down-regulated gene expression of *APC*, *LRP6*, *LEF1*, and *p65-NFkB* was dependent on treatment time, in opposition to non-canonical *ROR2*. *MUTYH*, *OGG1*, *NRF2*, *COX2* and *JUN/AP1* expression significantly increased. H₂O₂ treatment induced FZD6 protein expression in HCT116 cytoplasm and E-cadherin protein expression in SW480 cytoplasm, while beta-catenin increased in both cell lines. Intriguingly we relieved a *de novo* APC expression in both cell lines cytoplasm. FACS analysis of cell cycle showed time dependent changes: upon H₂O₂ [2mM] treatment at 15', SW480 increased in G1 and G2 and decreased in S, whereas HCT116 increased in G1 and slightly reduced in G2; after 30', SW480 enhanced in G1 and S, and reduced in G2 while HCT116 diminished in G1 and increased in S/G2.

Conclusions. In MSI and MSS CRC cells, oxidative stress differently affects the *WNT* pathways at gene and protein expression levels. Our results could unravel a new scenario for innovative CRC therapeutic approaches.